

Vegetation assessment of Awat-Awat Mangrove Forest, Sarawak, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Although mangroves provide a multitude of ecological and socio-economic services in Southeast Asia, they are still vulnerable to threats especially land use change. This study was carried out to assess the vegetation of Awat-Awat Mangrove Forest in Sarawak, Malaysia. A total of sixteen families and twenty four species were identified with *Rhizophora apiculata* and *Nypa fruticans* being the most dominant species. The succession process was clearly seen happening in this mangrove forest where pioneer species especially from the families *Avicenniaceae* and *Sonneratiaceae* were being taken over by the *Rhizophoraceae*.

Keyword: Mangrove forest; Succession; Zonation